

A close-up portrait of actor Chris Pratt. He has short, dark brown, wavy hair and a light brown beard and mustache. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight, pleasant smile. He is wearing a dark grey zip-up jacket with a purple ribbed collar. The background is out of focus, showing a crowd of people and a large white banner with the word 'MOMENT' in large, bold, black letters.

MAN OF THE MOMENT



Guardians of the Galaxy



Parks and Recreation



Jurassic World



Three years ago, Chris Pratt was known only to *Parks and Recreation* fans, as the lovable, if dozy, Andy Dwyer. He's since transformed from sitcom slacker to the hulking head of Marvel's *Guardians of the Galaxy*. Now, in *Jurassic World*, he's set to rejuvenate the dinosaur franchise.

Chris Pratt's success story could be a movie script in its own right. Aged 19, the struggling actor was living in a tent before managing to land minor roles in hit teen TV shows *The O.C.* and *Everwood*. The ever ambitious Pratt auditioned for blockbusters *Star Trek* and *Avatar* but found his niche in the idiosyncratic *Parks and Recreation*. Then *Zero Dark Thirty* came along, and suddenly casting agents from *Guardians of the Galaxy* were knocking.

Pratt's career trajectory was subsequently revolutionised and frankly, he's still getting his head around it. "I was the big comedy guy, the fat friend, sidekick, and I was working. I didn't want to fix it if it wasn't broken... Then *Zero Dark Thirty* came out and I suddenly saw myself as this believable badass."

Pratt the 'badass' is now taking on another beloved franchise, playing Owen Grady, a dinosaur behaviourist, in *Jurassic World*. He calls it a milestone role. "A milestone like it's marked your journey into manhood. [*Jurassic Park*] is one of the most influential movies in my life," he says, adding, "I'm precious about *Jurassic Park*, so I didn't want this f-ed up."

For a childhood superfan, winning the lead was a "weird" experience. "Now I don't just feel like a fan of the franchise. I feel like a peer of the artistic creators, which is really strange and surreal to think of."

His success is especially impressive considering the Hollywood heavyweights he was

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up against, including Bradley Cooper, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Eddie Redmayne and Aaron Paul. "Let me just pat my back here," the down-to-earth actor jests.

It's been 22 years since the first *Jurassic Park*, and sixteen years since part three came out. Pratt's lowdown of the *Jurassic World* plot sounds promising: "The Park is up and running, with 20,000 visitors a day. John Hammond's dream came true and everything he dreamed of and more is there. But it's been open long enough where people are no longer intrigued. It's a sign of the times. Blasé attitude. Not impressed. So then they create this new attraction that will hopefully generate some new interest in the park... and things go horribly wrong."

Pratt and co. are bringing dinosaurs back into the limelight, but that's not the actor's only animal

association. "'Monkeyboy' became my nickname in high school," he confesses. "Every Monday I would do a comic strip of monkeys and that's how it first started, and every time I would see a stuffed monkey, I would buy it. Even when I was a salesman, everyone had a nickname and I became Monkeyboy and it sort of stuck. Some of my closest friends still call me that. They say, 'Monkeyboy done alright.'"

Pratt – or 'Monkeyboy' – has definitely tasted success. But never fear; he promises not to let anything go to his head: "My brother said to me if I get 'too Hollywood', he will find me and fart on me or something," he laughs.

We imagine *Parks and Rec's* Andy Dwyer would approve. ☺



➤ *Jurassic World* is in cinemas on June 11 and will be reviewed next issue